(d) Changing international demand situation renders it premature to make an accurate impact assessment.

Export Performance of MMTC

5205. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the export performance of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC);

(b) if so, the details of the metals, minerals and other items exported by MMTC during last three years (year FCV wise);

(c) the quantity of these items exported and revenue earned thereby;

(d) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of some minerals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the details of the metals, minerals and other items exported by MMTC during last three years (year- wise) and the revenue earned is as follows:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

(Quantity in Lakh Tonnes)

Items	1997-98 Actuals		1998-99 Actuals		1999-2000 (Prov.)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Minerals and Ores	120.4	980	106.9	946	123.4	1036
Agro Products	0.75	75	0.47	31	0.06	3
Industrial Products\ Engineering Products	*	47	*	0.5	*	1
Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery	*	42	*	20	*	142
Others(General Trading)	*	43	*	43	*	26
TOTAL Exports	121.15	1187	107.37	1041	123.46	1208

*Export data is not being maintained in quantity terms since the number of items is too large and diverse and unit of measurement is different for different items.

(d) to (f) As regards minerals and ores, there has been an increase in exports during 1999-2000 except for marginal decrease during 1998-99. The main reason for fall in export during 1998-99 was lower intake by Japan, South Korea and China—India's major buyers, due to recession in the World steel industry.

Siege of Tobacco Board Office

5206. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 2000 tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh laid siege to the Tobacco Board office in March, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that tobacco exporters as well as cigarette manufacturers do not exploit the conditions and blackmail the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Several hundred tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh assembled at the Tobacco Board office on 16th March, 2000.

(b) To present their demands. Action taken to protect the farmers include:

(i) Meetings held with manufacturers, exporters and traders to purchase tobacco at platforms as per requirements indicated while fixing crop size.

(ii) Meetings held with farmers to solve the situation of over supply.

(iii) Inducting Government agency to enter the market to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

(iv) Fresh registration of growers not be undertaken for the time being.

Merger of DIPP with DID

5207. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and the Department of Industrial Development (DID) in view of the proposal of downsizing of Government; and